




ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”

Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 19th, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Pastor Paul Reichert and Pastor Melanie Forrey



STATEMENT OF WELCOME

Beloved, welcome to Zoar!

We are glad you are here. Whether you are new, attend worship regularly, are just passing through, or haven't been here in years, you belong - you are wanted - you are loved, just as you are. You and all people are wonderfully made by God, created in goodness for goodness, and are a part of one vibrant Divine tapestry with all of creation.

At Zoar Lutheran Church, all are welcome, and all means all. We celebrate diversity and embrace people of all ethnicities, cultures, and colors, all gender identities and expressions, all sexual orientations, all abilities, all ages, and folks from all walks of life. We desire wellness, wholeness, and hopefulness for all people, and will not turn away from anyone in their time of need, whatever that looks like.

We are committed to advocating for justice, seeking equity, encouraging curiosity, and caring for the most vulnerable. We condemn racism, discrimination, and other forces, words, and actions that oppress, exclude, and harm. While we know that we still have a lot to learn, we endeavor to be accountable when we make mistakes. We will continue to grow in ways that help us take better care of each other and the planet.

With our whole hearts, we strive to share the abundant love of God, practice the unexpected and generous hospitality of Jesus, and be moved by the Holy Spirit toward meaningful change and a stronger relationship with our Creator, our neighbors, and all the earth.

No matter where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here at Zoar!



314 E. Indiana Avenue
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

419-874-4346

www.zoarlutheran.com

(Congregation please rise as you are able when indicated by the “”)*

Introduction

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God’s baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Gathering**

All gather outside in silence. A small unlighted candle may be given to each worshipper.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Beloved in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ’s death and resurrection, share Christ’s triumph over sin and death, and await Christ’s coming again in glory.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ’s rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Christ, yesterday and today, ✚ the beginning and the ending.
To Christ belongs all time and all the ages;
to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: The light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our | hearts and minds.

Processional

The procession begins. Worshipers follow the procession to the entrance of the church where the Paschal Candle is lit. The people gathered at the entrance now light their candles from the fire of the Christ candle and proceed to the Family Life Center. As they walk to the FLC, the following versicles will be intoned.

The light | of Christ.

Thanks be | to God.

The procession continues, stopping at midpoint. The minister lifts the paschal candle and sings on a higher tone:

The light^l of Christ.
Thanks be^l to God.

The procession continues. The minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and sings on a still higher tone:

The light^l of Christ.
Thanks be^l to God.

The paschal candle is placed in its stand, and we hold our candles in a dark FLC.

Easter Proclamation

Leader: The Lord be with You.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night! **This is the night!**
in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night! **This is the night!**
in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.
This is the night! **This is the night!**
in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,
are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night! **This is the night!**
in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.
O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know
the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night! **This is the night!**
of which it is written: “The night is as clear as the day,” and, “then shall my
night be turned into day.” The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of
wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those
who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.
Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving

for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, reflected in the burning of this candle. We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed.

This is the night! **This is the night!**

in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who never sets, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son, free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated after extinguishing their candles.

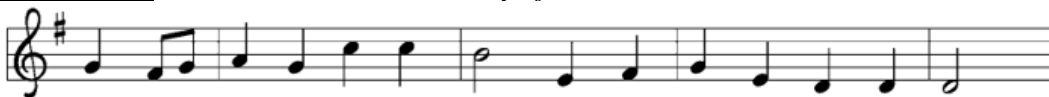
WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Creation Story from Spark Bible

First Response:

For the Beauty of the Earth, vs 1-2

ELW #879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

First Prayer

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading: Deliverance from the Red Sea from Spark Bible

Second Response

When Israel Was In Egypt's Land

WOV #670



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go;



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

Second Prayer

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Third Reading: Jonah and the Big Fish from Spark Bible

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Third Prayer

O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death and after three days you brought him to new life. Speak to us by this sign, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your risen son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Reading: Fiery Furnace from Spark Bible

Fourth Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

Leader: The holy gospel according to John the twentieth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Easter Story from Spark Bible...

Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Canticle

Veni Sancte Spiritus

ELW #406

The Canticle is sung repeatedly and the congregation moves toward the baptismal font in the Gathering Space.



Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

Thanksgiving Over The Water

Address To The Community

Leader: I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the Church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? If so, you may say, "I renounce them".

People: **I renounce them.**

Leader: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

People: **I renounce them.**

Leader: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

People: I renounce them.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

People: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Leader: People of God, do you promise to support each other and pray for one another in our life in Christ?

People: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Leader: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

People: Amen.

Hymn

Wash O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW #445



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go.
 Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread.
 To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar - ments bright and spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light.
 God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares,
 We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born.



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Risen Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: **Amen.**

After the prayers, the Assembly proceeds to the Sanctuary. Once all are in place, the gathered will join in singing the hymn of praise.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Canticle

This Is The Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



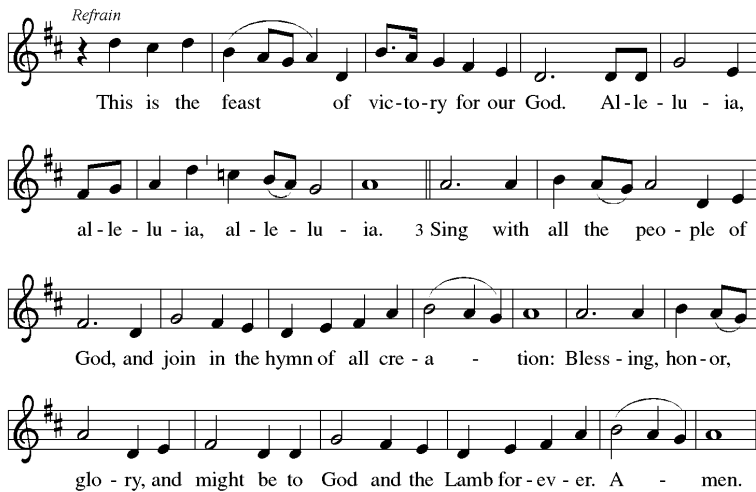
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: **and also with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

Praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Sharing of Communion

Please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will direct worshippers beginning with the back rows. Communion today will be served via intinction. As you come forward, you will receive a wafer (a gluten free option is available), then you will be invited to dip your wafer into the chalice (one side will contain red wine, the other light colored grape-juice). All who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to share communion. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to the table. People of any age who are not receiving Communion are always offered a blessing when coming forward during this part of the worship service. All are welcome, for Jesus invites us.

Music During Communion

Table Blessing

Leader: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world, through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

Blessing

Leader: God, the author of life, Christ, the living cornerstone, and the life-giving spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sending Hymn

We Know That Christ is Raised

ELW #449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Dismissal

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Leader: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrate

Easter with  **ZOAR**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

6 AM - Sunrise Service at Ft. Meigs Cemetery
Come, celebrate the Risen Savior at early dawn!
Join us on the north (older) side of the cemetery.

8:30 AM & 11 AM - Easter Worship at Zoar
Join us! Joy and hope come to us on
Easter! Alleluia! Christ is risen!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
for our Full Holy Week Schedule



www.zoarlutheran.com



419-874-4346

**314 East Indiana Ave.
Perrysburg, OH**

Yoga for Every Body

Sunday, April 27
4-5 PM



Join us in the **Zoar Lutheran Church Family Life Center** as we spend time connecting our mind, body, and spirit with guest instructor **Kasey Kilmer**.

Bring a yoga mat if you have one or a towel. Chairs will be available for anyone choosing chair yoga. We also recommend bringing a water bottle.



This event is sponsored by a generous member of our congregation. A free-will offering will be collected in support of the 2025 Youth Service & Learning trip to NYC.



Registration for this event is not required but is appreciated.



If you anticipate needing childcare to attend, please let us know in advance, and we will be in contact.



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ZOAR

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERS | GROWS | GIVES

Ministers	The People of Zoar
Pastor	Paul Reichert
Pastor	Melanie Forrey
Administrative Manager	Kelley Allred
Director of Music	Jacob Henry
Youth Director	Corryn Short
Communications	Nicole Downey
Secretary	Jodi Calkins
Custodian	Paul Cannon

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